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INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

Comment. The following report on the Woodworkers' Conference is being disseminated in view of the fact that the Conference was reportedly arranged by the Communist Party and was to be dominated by Communist Party leaders, particularly by Mustafa 'Aris. [REDACTED]

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1. The Woodworkers' Conference was held as scheduled on 7 November 1948, in the offices of the Federation of Unions. Mustafa 'Aris, the chairman, criticized the government for failing to apply the Labor Law, particularly with regard to the woodworkers who are Communists, following which, workers attacked their employers, accusing them of cruel exploitation. They denounced the government for its failure to protect national industry.
2. The workers finished the Conference by drawing up the draft of the decisions which, ^{25X1X6} [REDACTED] had been dictated previously by the leaders of the Communist Party, and which are as follows:
- a. To protect national industry, to reduce the volume of imports, to adopt an independent economic policy, and to ask the unions and the industrial organizations, including the woodworkers' unions, to participate in the realization of these aims.
 - b. To reduce the customs tariff on raw materials for the wood industry, and to limit the profits from these materials.
 - c. To continue efforts to have the Labor Law applied.
 - d. To endeavor to create a social security fund, to introduce free education, and to see that the unions have a voice in, and help implement, these actions.
 - e. To obtain compensations for the workers who have been released from the French Army, and to obtain financial aid for unemployed workers from the government, through the unions.
 - f. To endeavor to have the Labor Law applied to the woodworkers in work-shops.

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1. The Committee is hereby regraded as a
closed organization in accordance with the
Executive Order of September 1973 from the
President of Central Intelligence to the
President of the United States.

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Document No. 2
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
☒ DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDP REG. 77/1763
Date: 10 MAY 1978 By: 24

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- g. To combat competition among "piece-work" workers, to show what injustice the workers suffer through such a system, and to urge the workers to work on time bases.
 - h. To try to safeguard union liberties, and to organize the woodworkers of North and South Lebanon and the Biqa', in order to obtain adequate guarantees for union members against pressure from employers.
 - i. To change the license of the carpenters' union in Beirut to one which would cover the whole of Lebanon.
 - j. To warn the responsible authorities to stop discriminating against the working classes, to warn the workers against these authorities, and to try to strengthen the unions' unity.
 - k. To support the efforts that are being made to obtain a license for the Federation of Unions, in accordance with Article 106 of the Labor Law.
 - l. To encourage union culture, to invite the workers to read union literature, particularly the carpenters' publication which is to become the mouthpiece of the woodworkers in Lebanon, and to hold cultural meetings.
 - m. To make efforts to get the workers to join the union, to encourage them to attend its general meetings, and to take part in its activities, in order to strengthen it.
 - n. To increase contacts and collaboration between the "command" and the masses, and to encourage the workers to criticize their own mistakes and the mistakes of their colleagues, both workers and leaders.
 - o. To demand the release of Hanna Zarqa and Mustafa Murad, and to oppose the arbitrary arrests which are contrary to the Constitution.
- 25X1A Comment. Zarqa, Secretary-General of the Typographers' Union, and Murad are both Communists who were interned in Ba'albek in May 1948. As announced in the Lebanese press in late October, the Communist detainees still remaining in Ba'albek are Baruyr Yeretizian, Yusuf Khattar Hilu, Hanna Zarqa, Mustafa Murad, Rafiq Rida and Muhammad Mustafa Dib; Marie Pashabazian was still detained in Dekwaneh, the women's detention camp.
- 25X1C Farid Shihab, head of the Surete, had managed to keep these few Communists detained only after a struggle in which many highly placed government officials, including the Minister of the Interior, Gabriel Murr, had tried to force him to release them. On 18 October, Murr had promised a large delegation that Hanna Zarqa would be released soon.)
- p. To send a message of support to the striking miners in France.
 - q. To ask the Executive Committee of the Conference to try to implement these decisions.

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3. After these decisions had been made, the Conference elected an Executive Committee as follows: Yusuf Rashid Shartuni, an old associate of Mustafa 'Aris; Ni'matallah Atallah; Nasri Sharfan; Mustafa Badawi of North Lebanon; George Furaybah, Communist propagandist; Atallah Atallah; Husayn Muhammad Khalil; Nicola 'Afi from the Biqa'; Shakib Bayruti; As'ad Abu Sa'b; Aris Achabashian.

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[REDACTED] Comment. Source stated that the Executive Committee was formed of twelve people, [REDACTED] This Committee was empowered to hold meetings at which to select persons to execute the above decisions.

4. After the meeting, the command of the Communist Party in the various Lebanese districts issued orders to spread propaganda among the working classes to support the woodworkers and the decisions adopted at the Conference. Consequent action taken by Tripoli workers led to the arrest and imprisonment of a number of Communist Party members, namely, Mustafa Badawi, a member of the Woodworkers' Conference Committee, Khalid Hamawi, Ni'ma Qarutah, Muhammad Huri, and Elias Murayj.

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